

these programs actually end and become mortal.

These programs have survived because, well, in part, because there is a special interests, a cottage industry has grown up, and they live off the taxpayers' largesse.

But Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress are not here to represent special interests. We are here to work for the hard working mother and father who send their tax dollars here when, instead, they would like to keep that for their own homes and their own children.

My friends from Texas and Kansas have taken this initiative to craft those legislations to set up procedures to review the bureaucracy and it is one of the top priorities of myself and the members of the Congressional Constitution Caucus to see that this legislation is put into place.

I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. TIAHRT and Mr. BRADY on this legislation to make recommendations to them. I have worked with them as well, and as members, the gentleman from Utah as well sits here on the floor as well, to make recommendations to make these programs have teeth, because you see, they are already outside organizations that are simply reviewing what the Federal Government does, looks at the efficiency. There is already those outside organizations that can tell Congress what do in a more efficient manner. We have got to make that you if we pass legislation, that these new procedures will actually have teeth and make sure that they are implemented and actually reduce the size and scope of the Federal Government.

One of the suggestions that has been incorporated into Mr. TIAHRT's bill, which I think will do well to move along and add the teeth to it, is simply to add a criteria to the legislation, one to review the duplicity and the efficiency of the Federal programs, and to see whether or not current Federal programs are constitutional; that is to say, do they meet specifics limited enumerated powers that any child in this country could find in Article I, section 8. Thus we ensure that all Federal programs have a constitutionally acceptable and not outside the intended limited size and scope of the Federal Government.

So I greatly appreciate the gentlemen from Texas and from Kansas for their work in this matter.

I also would like to take this time to thank the gentleman from Utah sitting to my right for all of his work in making sure that the American public and Congress continues their focus on the Federal Government and the Constitution and his efforts as far as bringing this attention to the public each Tuesday.

And I close, as we leave the Chambers this week to go back to our districts, as part of our district work period for Congress to encourage the American public to do what other

Members have done on this floor as well, to read the Constitution, to look to the limitations that the Founding Fathers have instilled into it.

□ 1900

And I close with this quote from Thomas Jefferson, which he stated February 15, 1791: "To take a single step beyond the boundaries specifically drawn around the powers of Congress" in the Constitution "is to take possession of a boundless field of power, no longer susceptible to any definition."

Mr. Speaker, the Founders intended that the Constitution would set those parameters, and I encourage this House to abide by them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOUSTANY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the place of the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) in the order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago today, the House of Representatives issued a declaration of independence from the powerful drug lobby. A tripartisan majority, lots of Members of both the Republican and Democratic Parties and the Independent from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), a tripartisan majority in the House passed legislation giving Americans access to safe, effective, and affordable medicine imported from Canada and other allied nations. Several of us in this body have over the years, and I began doing this 7 or 8 years ago, taken seniors from our districts, and I live in northern Ohio, up through Detroit into Windsor, Ontario, to buy prescription drugs at half or a third the price that Americans pay because Canada has found a way to negotiate directly with the drug industry and bring the prices down, saving, as I said, one half, two-thirds, three-fourths of the cost for prescription drugs.

Our Congress, particularly the Republican majority, because it is so in thrall to the drug companies and so addicted to campaign contributions from the drug industry, have failed to do any of that until 3 years ago when that tripartisan majority in the House passed that legislation, giving Americans access to less expensive drugs, drugs imported from Canada and other nations that have a safe, predictable process that they are able to retail their drugs.

But Senate Majority Leader BILL FRIST has never scheduled a floor vote in the Senate. Not 3 years ago, when we passed this bill; not 2 years ago; not last year, not this year. And the American people continue to pay two and three and four times the cost of prescription drugs that we should have to pay, that the Canadians pay, that the French pay, that the Germans pay, that the Japanese or the Israelis or the Brits pay.

Every day we delay, American consumers are paying as much as five times more than consumers in these other nations are paying for the same drugs, the same packaging, the same drug maker, the same everything. Every day we delay, the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs makes it harder for American businesses to provide health insurance for their workers. Every day we delay puts American manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage as rising drug prices drown them in health care costs. And every day we delay puts the health of American consumers at risk as they are forced to split their pills, skip their doses, and make the heart-breaking choice between medicine and food or between medicine and heat in the winter or between medicine and air conditioning on hot summer days like we have seen.

And every day we delay increases the burden on American taxpayers as drug prices drive up the cost of Medicare, drive up the cost of Medicaid, drive up the cost of other public sector health programs.

We should have sent President Bush an importation bill 3 years ago. It is not too late. We can still deliver for the American people if the Republican leadership in this House and if the Republican leadership in the Senate will commit to floor votes on importation legislation before the end of this year.

Three years is too long to wait. It is time for leadership, for a change, to stand up to the drug lobby and to take a stand for American families, for American businesses, for America as a country.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WASTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, as many here in the body know, I am an old high school history teacher. And not content simply to teach history in the classroom, I organized different programs for my students. Having worked in the State legislature, I came up with an internship program. So I took kids to the Utah legislature, where they worked for a week as we organized the program, their jobs, their housing, their supervision at night. I organized an oral history program for our school. I organized a Renaissance festival.

Tired of only kids in athletic programs getting scholarships, we raised